

PROFICIENT SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA.

Great Coal Fields Soon to Have Direct Access to the Markets.

We reproduce the following interesting article published in the Bristol Courier Feb. 14, written by its correspondent at Tacoma, in Wise County:

This is the prettiest town site in a Wise county. During the years strong efforts were made to move the court house here. There is a large area of level land at Tacoma, something not often found in a mountainous coal field. Guests from flows through the southern side of the village, encircling it like a horseshoe. It is quite a lumber point, and recent developments also prove it beyond question one of the richest in coal deposit. Some prejudice has been created against this point in the past as a coal field. The prejudice was due to some extent by rival sections, and mainly to the fact that some parties undertook to start an operation here in the year 1892 and had to abandon the same on account of the severe panic of 1893, which all distinctly remember. The old entries of the company were cleaned out last year by the Bond Coal Co., and the coal proved to be the very best, and is in successful operation at present. Bond & Bruce have their plants at and near the town. The Williams Coal Co. is getting a fine start on its lease and will soon be loading several cars per day. The Bear Creek Co. has recently made the most gratifying development. Its 700 acres carries every measure of this field, five in all, three of which are clean coal and can be worked to one tipple. Guests mountain at this point reaches its climax as to size and height, which accounts for it showing all five seams. Tacoma is six miles east of Norton on the N. & W. road, and will be touched by the South & Western. It will be a busy town at no distant.

Southwest's Prospects.

From a business standpoint, the people of Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee have much to be elated over on account of the great development of this particular coal field, due to the building of the South & Western railroad line to the seacoast. This line, with the various branch lines, such as the Interstate from Stonega to Norton, the Wise Terminal up Guests river to Glamorgan and on to the Cumberland mountains; the Virginia and Kentucky, which will be extended further north from Wise court house—all of which opens up the field fairly well.

The main feature, however, is the coming of the South & Western. Few outside of the coal operators ever have realized the hampered conditions of this coal field in the past, especially those operations wholly dependent upon the N. & W., which held them in bands as mighty as those of Orion. Up to a year ago it was next to impossible to get a sidetrack from this road for a new coal operation, much less the promise of any cars to load. They wanted to talk mean to you. The reply generally was: "We do not want any more coal operations on our Clinch Valley line. We get more coal in West Virginia than we can handle. Some day, in the course of three or four years perhaps, we may take up the matter of developing the Wise and Clinch Valley coal, but not now."

It was "our coal" in West Virginia; the Norfolk & Western owned it—"sack, bag and all." The Clinch Valley coal was largely the property of the citizens. One of the most aggravating propositions on earth

stock in all this section and again are beginning to awaken to the fact that the horses and mules cannot be bought for a song. There is no doubt that the people in the past have been selling too cheap. We do not believe in the citizens holding their stock at exorbitant prices, but we do believe that they should have every dollar it is worth. Of course the stock dealer has a right to make a reasonable profit, but he should be willing to give the farmer a showing.

BUSY TIMES.

L. & N. is Aroused to Activity in the Coal Section—Hawkins County Rights-of-Way.

The Knoxville Journal and Tribune last Thursday contained the following article of interest:

The Louisville and Nashville railroad is getting busy in Southwest Virginia. Much has appeared in print during the last few days respecting movements of the Virginia & Western, the South & Western and the Holston River railroad in Southwest Virginia, especially in the region of the coal fields. The struggle is on among the different railroad interests to control valuable coal lands in that region. The L. & N. has been on the scene for a long time and has practically dominated the coal and coking business of the region. The activity of the railroads necessarily arouses the L. & N. to greater activity and to efforts to get hold of as much coal land as possible.

It is learned that the Black Mountain railroad, a new enterprise, actually under construction with a large force of men at work, is being built in the region of Pennington Gap, where the L. & N. built a branch line a year or so ago.

What the Black Mountain railroad is to be, full information has not been received. George Callahan, the railroad contractor, is said to have taken the construction of the road in hand.

The sudden activity in the construction of the Black Mountain, the Interstate railroad and other railroads in that region of Southwest Virginia, have for their chief purpose control of the coal field. A person who has been in the region, sees that people in Southwest Virginia do not seem to realize what is going on, that railroads are surveyed and actually under construction and no word gets to the outside world.

Reports from Rogersville are to the effect that there is a ready response of property owners along the proposed line of the Holston River railroad, in granting free right of way, particularly on one of the proposed lines of the road.

A locating survey is being made by engineering corps and everything goes rapidly along toward starting an early construction of the line.

Since the surveyors left off their line three miles south of Rogersville, they have not taken it up again. There is considerable conjecture as to what route will be taken beyond the stopping point.

A NEW SCHEME.

How to Raise a Large Revenue For Schools, Roads, Etc.

The great need of the State, to put the schools and roads in such condition as they should be, is money. If the State had sufficient funds at its command the school and road problems would be solved. The Clinch Valley News offers a suggestion in this direction. It is this: Let the State of Virginia buy or lease a boundary of coal land, and operate it with state prisoners as far as possible. What's wrong with the scheme. The more it is thought of the more plausible it seems to become. There are no difficulties of strikes, extortionate freight rates, stubborn and gasping officials to reckon with, usually attending the mining of coal. The entire revenue to be used for the public good would give the "scheme" favor with the

public. This suggestion is respectfully and modestly submitted to the law-makers now in session in Richmond, by the Clinch Valley News. So far no such scheme has been proposed in any of these papers, so far as we have seen, and so far, no plan which promises a sufficient revenue to do needed work for the schools and roads has been proposed that will not burden the taxpayers. The "scheme" will do the one and avoid entirely the other, and make the criminal classes of the State contribute to the State's development. What's wrong with it?—Clinch Valley News.

BUILDING SLOW BUT SURE.

The Carter's Ferry Correspondent of the Gate City Herald Says:

Railroad building in this vicinity moves slowly but surely forward. The placing of a road in Clinch Valley by shooting down the precipitous, rocky cliffs and culverting and filling the numerous mountain ravines so as to secure a first-class grade, seems to the casual observer a herculean task before which the present operating force is but a child playing upon the sea coast. Yet the elaborate preparation and the push and skill shown by its superintendents and foremen prove the Carolina Construction Co. equal to the occasion. The immense rock are in full blast and the culvert building goes ahead all along the line. With the culverts built a great force of hands can be placed in the many cuts that are now idle awaiting their construction.

PROMINENT LUMBER MERCHANT RASSES AWAY.

Rogersville, Tenn., Feb. 15.—E. M. Spears, a prominent lumberman, and farmer of this place, died suddenly Monday night, as the result of a third stroke of paralysis. Mr. Spears has for years been extensively engaged in the lumber business here until about a year ago, when he received a stroke of paralysis, since which time he has been confined to his home. He leaves to each of his four children \$10,000 life insurance; besides he carried \$217,000 which goes to his estate. When he received his first attack he was insured for \$22,000, but between that time and his death he had dropped \$25,000. Mr. Spears was one of the most influential members of the Methodist Church at this place, and his loss will fall heavily on this community, as he not only gave employment to many, but donated liberally to charity.

DISASTROUS FIRE

At Preacher Friday Miralaz Destroys Four Business Houses.

On last Friday morning about four o'clock fire broke out in the kitchen of the dwelling occupied by Geo. W. Barsa, over his store, and before it could be put out four places of business were destroyed. The stores burned were Geo. W. Barsa, Wise Supply Company, Young and Green, Henry Dickenson. The latter building was not occupied except the top stairs, which was used by Mr. Dickenson as a dwelling.

The property loss caused by the fire was about \$10,000, distributed as follows: Geo. W. Barsa—building and stock, \$10,000. Insurance \$8,000. Wise Supply Company—building and stock \$20,000. Insurance, \$10,000. Young & Green—building and stock, \$10,000. Insurance \$2,000. Mr. Dickenson—building and contents, \$2,000. No insurance.

The fire started from the kitchen stove in the building occupied by Mr. Barsa, and when discovered had gained such headway that it could not be extinguished and all efforts to stop the spread of the flames was fruitless and it practically burned itself out as all the buildings in the block where the fire started was consumed.

We have not learned whether or not any of the parties will rebuild, but we presume they will as all of the merchants whose stock were destroyed were doing a good business.

LONGWORTH-ROOSEVELT NUPTIALS.

Most Noted and Brilliant Event of the Kind at Capitol in Many Years.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Mr. and Mrs. Longworth have gone to "Friendship," the country home of John R. McLean, on the Tanallytown road, located about six miles from Washington.

As they entered an automobile they were showered with rice by Miss Ethel and other Roosevelt children. Mrs. Longworth was handed into the car by Major McCawley, while Mr. Longworth entered on the other side, assisted by his best man. The president and Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. Captain Cowles and other members of the family stood on the steps of the White House and waved them out of sight.

The Wedding.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Miss Alice Roosevelt, eldest daughter of the President of the United States, was married to Representative Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, at noon today in the east room of the White House.

The most distinguished statesmen of the land, lights of literature, lions of society, and captains of industry—men and women from every walk of life and from almost every clime and corner of the globe—came to pay homage to the happy couple and to swell the throng at the most brilliant wedding at the Capitol has ever seen.

Thirty-seven foreign ambassadors and ministers were in attendance, to extend the congratulations of their sovereigns and people. Cabinet officers, senators, the bridge-club's col-

leagues in the house, and the intimate personal friends of the Roosevelt and Longworth families in the cities of Washington, New York and Cincinnati were included among the fortunate thousand invited to witness the marriage. It was an assemblage of elite in public and social life. Rivaling the splendid floral decorations of the famous state apartment were the gold-encrusted costumes and flashing orders of the diplomatic corps, to say nothing of the vari-colored toilets of the women guests. The White House never looked more beautiful than it did today in its gala dress of bloom and verdure. For more than a week florists and decorators had been moving tropical plants into place and weaving garlands for the great event. The result as revealed when the doors were opened this morning amply repaid all the care and labor bestowed on the task. The color scheme was white and green, feras and lilies predominating.

The coal lands of Wise County have been bought up by various coal and railway companies until only a few hundred acres can now be purchased in compact body. There are, however, many small pieces of coal properties in this county that are as valuable per acre as any that is now being operated.—Wise News.

Read the town ordinance against spitting on the sidewalk, published elsewhere in this paper.

Legal Blanks.

We carry on hand the most complete stock of Legal Blanks for Justice of the Peace and a turnkey of any house in the State of Virginia. These forms were prepared by Mr. Samuel N. Hurst, author of the Hurst Guide and Manual and other popular Virginia Law Books.

All Blanks are One Cent each, or 75 cents per 100, except Nos. 22, 24, 27, 35 and 37, which are One Cent each straight. We pay the postage on all orders. Please order by Number.

- No. 1. Warrant of Arrest.
2. Commitment to Answer Indictment.
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5. Commitment for Imprisonment, &c.
6. Recognizance upon Appeal.
7. Warrant Discharging from Jail, upon Appeal.
8. Complaint for peace Warrant.
9. Peace Warrant.
10. Search Warrant.
11. Warrant in Debt.
12. Warrant in Damages.
13. Execution.
14. Garnishee Summons.
15. Indemnifying Bond.
16. Forthcoming Bond.
17. Affidavit for Summons in Unlawful Detainer.
18. Summons in Unlawful Detainer.
19. Affidavit for Distress Warrant.
20. Distress Warrant.
21. Complaint for Attachment against Removing Debtor.
22. Attachment against Removing Debtor, With Garnishee Process.
23. Attachment Bond.
24. Deed of Conveyance, with certificate.
25. Deed of Trust, with certificate.
26. Deed of Lease.
27. Homestead Deed.
28. Declaration in Assumpsit.
29. Declaration in Debt on Bond.
30. Declaration in Debt on Promissory Note.
31. Declaration in Debt on Negotiable Note.
32. Notice of Motion on Note, Bond, or Account.
33. Power of Attorney.
34. Notice to take Depositions.
35. Indictment, General.
36. Indictment, Liqueur.
37. Commissioner's Notice.
38. Abstract of Judgment before Justice.
39. Warrant in Debt.
40. Garnishee Summons and Judgment.
41. Subpoena for Witnesses.

All orders given prompt and careful attention.

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BIG STONE GAP, - - - VIRGINIA.